Woodland Property Name	Geralds Wood	
Unique Reference	1441	
Plan Period dd/mm/yyyy (ten years)	**Approval Date:** 29/09/2022	**To:** 29/09/2032
Five Year Review Date	2027	

Approval Criteria – FC Office Use Only

The UKFS states that a management plan should:

UKFS	Approval Criteria	FC Approval & Notes
State the objectives of management, and how sustainable forest management is to be achieved	Have objectives of management been stated? Consideration given to economic, environmental and social factors (Section 2.2)	
Provide a means to communicate forest proposals and engage interested parties	Have work proposals been communicated in the management strategy (section 6) and felling & restock table (section 8) and potential interested parties identified in Section 7	
Serve as an agreed statement of intent against which implementation can be checked and monitored	Has a five year review period been stated below and achievements recorded in section 3	
Approving Officer Name	Vicki Hutchings	Plan approved ☒

To Maximise Functionality

- Connect to the internet;
- Enable macros when prompted;
- where the text is blue and underlined additional information is available, hover over the text with your mouse and double click to open;
- where you see the symbol, left click on it and press the F1 key for a further explanation of the detail required;
- throughout the document where you see '**Add Box**' double click on the text and additional boxes will appear (enable macros first).

1. Property Details

Name	Lisa Davison for Wonersh Parish Council	Owner √	Tenant ☐
Email	clerk@wonershparish.org	Contact Number	01483 892601
Address	Wonersh Parish Council, Wonersh Sports Pavilion, Wonersh Common, Wonersh, Guildford, Surrey GU5 0PJ		
Agent Name (if applicable)		Petra Billings	
Contact Number	07505 280155	Email	petra@sussexwoodlands.co.uk
County	Surrey	Nearest Town	Guildford
Grid Reference	TQ 013 453	Local Authority	Waverley
Management Plan Area (Hectares)		1.13 hectares	
List the maps associated with this management plan		Map 1: Location and Designations Map 2: Woodland types and features Map 3: Proposed management strategy	
Do you intend to apply for a felling licence with this management plan?		Yes √	No ☐

2. Vision and Objectives

To develop your long term vision, you need to express as clearly as possible the overall direction of management for the woodland and how you envisage it will be in the future.

2.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s).

Gerald's Wood is an attractive small, mixed broadleaf woodland in Wonersh, Surrey. It is partly ancient woodland and partly well-established secondary woodland. Overall there is a good diversity of tree species and a good age structure. However, a significant part of the woodland consists of sweet chestnut, the coppice rotation of which has lapsed and the age structure in this part is poor. Other health threats include ash dieback, deer-browsing and scattered non-native species such as cherry laurel and snowberry. The vision is to maintain safe public access through the wood, while addressing the tree health threats and improving the woodland biodiversity.

2.2 Management Objectives

State the objectives of management, and how sustainable forest management is to be achieved. Objectives are a set of specific, quantifiable statements that represent what needs to happen to achieve the long term vision.

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	Maintain public access to designated areas
2	Address tree health threats, in particular ash dieback, and remove invasive non-native species
3	Improve the woodland biodiversity by increasing the quality and extent of wildlife habitat

Add Box

3. Plan Review - Achievements

Use this section to identify achievements made against previous plan objectives. This section should be completed at the 5 year review and could be informed through monitoring activities undertaken.

Objective	Achievement
Maintain safe public access to designated areas	
Address tree health threats, in particular ash dieback, and remove invasive non-native species	
Improve the woodland biodiversity by increasing the quality and extent of wildlife habitat	

Add Box

4. Woodland Survey

This section is about collecting information relating to your woodland and its location, including any statutory constraints: designations, European Protected Species etc. Woodland information for your property can be found on the 'Magic' website or the Forestry Commission Land Information Search.

Brief description of the woodland property

Location and Designations

Gerald's Wood is a small, attractive woodland situated on a steep southwest-facing slope opposite Wonersh Parish Church. It was given to the parish in 1959 for 'public walks and pleasure gardens or recreation grounds'. The boundaries of the wood are unchanged since the 1872 Ordnance Survey map.

Gerald's Wood is part of a chain of woods, some ancient and some secondary, along the River Wey. It sits in the narrow gap between the western and eastern blocks of the Surrey Hills Area of outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The southern half of Geralds Wood is designated ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW).

Soils

The soils in the southern half of the wood are described on Soilscapes[1] as 'loamy soils with naturally high groundwater and low fertility' and those in the north as 'freely draining, slightly acid, loamy soils with low fertility.

Woodland Types

The topography divides the wood clearly into Compartment 1a, which sits on the more freely drained soils on the plateau in the north of Gerald's Wood and Compartments 1b and 1c which sit on wetter soils on the steep slope in the south.

Cpt 1a is known to have been wooded since at least 1872 so is well-established secondary woodland. It is mixed broadleaf woodland with a good species diversity and good age structure. It includes mature oaks in the north-east; a small parcel of mature sweet chestnut in the east, some of which has been coppiced recently; a small group of young diseased ash in the south; scattered self-sown sycamore, Norway maple and field maple and a parcel of young planted trees in the west, mostly oak, wild cherry and crab apple. One of the Norway maples in the east is a potential veteran. Some of the sycamore trees are misshapen, probably due to squirrel and/or frost damage. Suckering elm occurs frequently throughout though has been heavily deer-browsed. Silver birch also occurs.

The understorey includes occasional hazel, hawthorn and elder. Other features include a mature Scots pine in the south of the parcel by the path junction and two mature oaks on the north-east boundary. There is an open area in the west of the parcel with an extensive badger sett. There is a large area of bluebell in the north otherwise the ground flora is dominated by stinging nettle and dogs mercury. Bramble occurs frequently but deer pressure prevents it dominating.

Cpt 1b in the south-west of the wood is a small parcel of overstood hazel coppice, some of which is beginning to collapse. Cpt 1c is overstood sweet chestnut coppice. It was identified during a recent tree safety inspection that some maturing stems have emanated from stumps which are now decaying and present an unacceptable risk to site users. These have been specified for removal. Other less frequent tree species in this compartment include yew, alder, sycamore, ash and elm. The understorey includes frequent holly, elder, occasional

[1] Soilscapes is an online resource provided by Cranfield University, sponsored by Defra, freely available at http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/ Accessed 22 April 2022

hazel and occasional hawthorn. Wild currant also occurs. The alder and horsetail along the bottom of the slope are indicative of the heavier, wetter soils in this area. Non-native and potentially invasive snowberry and buddleia occur alongside the path along the bottom of the slope.

The ground flora on the slope is a mix of ruderal and opportunistic species such as stinging nettle and cleavers along the bottom of the slope, with extensive patches of woodland specialists such as dogs mercury, bluebell, yellow archangel, red campion, violet and garlic mustard. There is a patch of non-native lesser periwinkle beside the path which leads up the slope.

There is a good deadwood resource in various forms including stumps, fallen coppice stools, fallen branches and standing deadwood. Ivy occurs on a number of trees and provides an important resource for wildlife both in terms of late season pollen and nectar for bees and other invertebrates and roost/nest sites for woodland birds and bats.

Access
A network of paths, including a historic path linking Chinthurst Hill House with the church and village, provide good pedestrian access however access for machinery is limited by the steep slope and proximity to the busy road along the south-west boundary.

5. Woodland Protection

This section allows you to consider the potential threats facing your woodland(s). Where relevant, under the following headings, describe any potential threats and as informed by both the likelihood of presence and potential impact, communicate any required management response. This could, for example, be providing information in relation to putting in place a plan, monitoring or direct action.

Plant Health

There are a number of ash trees in the wood, most of which are in the intermediate to advanced stages of ash dieback. Any trees showing signs of disease-resilience should be conserved and monitored. Where not unsafe, diseased ash can be left in situ to contribute to the dead wood resource however trees which have 50% or more canopy dieback and which are a safety risk, are candidates for felling. Waverley BC have identified trees for felling, monolithing or remedial works to make safe (October 2021).

Sweet chestnut is vulnerable to a number of diseases including sweet chestnut blight, ramorum disease and ink disease, the first two of which are notifiable to the Forestry Commission via Tree Alert at https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/tree-alert/ Currently, the trees appear healthy but should be monitored for symptoms such as canopy dieback, fruiting fungal bodies on the trunks or unusual staining on the bark.

Deer

There is evidence of deer-browsing (roe) on young elm in Cpt 1a however levels of natural regeneration suggests that deer impacts are not unacceptable. Deer impacts should be monitored. Erection of a small, fenced deer exclosure of ~4 x 4m in Cpt 1a would demonstrate the level of deer impact on the woodland's capacity to naturally regenerate. Any new planting should be protected in 1.2 m tree shelters with stakes.
Grey Squirrels
There are high numbers of squirrels which pose a particular threat to young trees 10 to 20 years old. Squirrel activity should be monitored and control measures undertaken if required.
Livestock and Other Mammals
N/A
Water & Soil (soil erosion, acidification of water, pollution etc)
Soil erosion is a risk on the steep slope and continuous cover should be maintained. Any forestry operations should be undertaken with caution to minimise this risk.
Environmental (flooding, wind damage, fire, invasive species etc)
Cherry laurel occurs in the south of the wood. Previously more extensive, the Wonersh Woodland Group have limited it to a hedge along the roadside boundary. Other non-native invasive species include snowberry and lesser periwinkle which should be removed. Buddleia also occurs though, provided it does not spread, may be considered acceptable due to its benefits for butterflies.
Climate Change Resilience (provenance, lack of diversity, uniform structure)
Across Gerald's Wood as a whole there is a good diversity of tree species which provides good climate change resilience. However, a large part of Cpt 1c is dominated by the old sweet chestnut coppice and the wood would benefit from enrichment planting in open areas.

6. Strategy

This section requires a statement of intent, setting out how you intend to achieve your management objectives and manage important features and issues identified within the previous sections of the plan. The information provided should be succinct.

Mgt Objective/ Feature	Outline Work Prescriptions/Operations	Year
Maintain safe public access to designated areas	• Maintain public access via designated trails enabling the retention of standing deadwood, veteran trees and trees with habitat features in habitat preservation areas beyond falling distance of designated paths. Continue informing woodland visitors and the public via the on-site information board and parish website. • Waverley BC undertook a Tree Safety Inspection in October 2021 and have identified trees for remedial works to make them safe. Their report recommends that trees	Ongoing Re-inspection in autumn 2023

	should be re-inspected within a maximum of two years, however, 'an 18-month inspection interval is reasonable to have a better view of vitality and allow trees to be inspected during different times of year'.	Ongoing
	• In between the formal tree inspections, casual surveys should be undertaken, particularly after heavy storms or gales. Any damage such as windblow, snapped branches and so on should be recorded and remedial action taken where required.	2022
	• Subject to the next survey in 2024, consider diverting the public footpath on the north-east boundary beyond falling distance of the two Veteran Oaks ref: 00015 and 00016 in Waverley 2021 Report. Reassess risk and consider retaining the Veteran Oaks.	
Address tree health threats, in particular ash dieback and invasive non-native species	• Ash trees which have not already been identified for removal/tree surgery should be monitored for canopy dieback. Any trees showing signs of disease-resistance should be retained but trees showing >50% canopy decline are candidates for removal if within falling distance of the paths or public highway.	Ongoing
	• Continue to control cherry laurel by cutting and burning. Limit the number of fire sites within the wood and locate them with care to avoid overhanging canopy. Treat cut stumps and any regrowth with an approved herbicide applied by a trained operator in line with best practice guidance for the safe storage, use and disposal of pesticides. Remove snowberry by digging it out where feasible or by cutting, burning and stump treatment as above.	Ongoing
	• Consider erecting a deer exclosure of ~4 x 4 m in an open area to assess the woodland's capacity for natural regeneration in the absence of deer activity.	2022
Improve the woodland biodiversity by increasing the quality and extent of wildlife habitat	• Identify notable trees including veteran and future veterans. Halo-thin them by clearing competing woody vegetation from beneath the canopy at least as far as the drip-line. Where any trees are particularly hemmed in, the release should be undertaken in stages in order to avoid abiotic stress from sudden changes in micro-climate.	2022
	• Leave ivy in situ on trees except where it threatens to destabilise the tree and cause a safety issue. Ivy is an	Ongoing

	important late-season source of nectar, pollen and berries. It also provides good nesting habitat.	
	• Dense shrub patches in sunny locations are important for nesting habitat and the provision of food resources for wildlife. Provision of shrubby habitat at Gerald's Wood is limited by the steep slope but could be encouraged around the woodland edges, particularly around Cpt 1a. Where appropriate, coppice the shrubs along the woodland boundaries to stimulate regrowth. Along the north-east boundary, consider planting a belt of mixed native shrubs such as hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, spindle and dogrose between the path and the woodland edge. Leave 5m gap from the oaks. Protect new planting in rabbit spiral guards with bamboo canes.	When resources permit
	• Coppice rotations are an ideal means of diversifying habitat structure within the wood. Continue to coppice the stand of sweet chestnut in the east of Cpt 1a, piling the twiggy brash over the cut stumps to deter deer from browsing the coppice regrowth. Similarly, consider coppicing the hazel in Cpt 1b. The steep slope in Cpt 1c will limit forestry operations however the felling of unsafe ash will open up the canopy and encourage natural regeneration. Where accessible, in areas of closed canopy, consider singling the old chestnut stools by selecting the best stem(s) for retention and felling the others.	Winter 2022/23
	• In the north of Cpt 1a, there is an open area with a small number of misshapen sycamore and maples. Consider clearing these trees and replanting the area with suitable species to mirror other young planting, for example, oak, wild cherry, hazel, protecting the new trees in 1.2m tree shelters with stakes and the new shrubs with rabbit spiral guards and bamboo canes. However, retain some open areas as permanent glades to encourage the ground flora and provide basking areas for invertebrates and reptiles.	When resources permit
	• Maintain the dead wood resource, both standing and fallen, ideally leaving it in situ where it is safe to do so and does not block access. Some dying ash trees could be left to contribute to the dead wood resource where they form part of a mixed canopy and are not a safety risk. Aim for a network of dead wood of various types, including fallen branches, trunks, stumps and so on across the woods. Different species of fungi and saproxylic invertebrates will populate the different elements of dead wood.	Ongoing

	• The twiggy waste (brash) can be left in situ or in piles to decompose, chipped and removed, or burned. If burning, minimise the number of fire-sites in the ancient woodland, siting them outside the woodland if possible. If not, select sites with care to avoid overhanging canopy and sensitive areas of ground flora.	Ongoing
	• Follow FC best practice guidance for protection of European Protected Species[2] such as bats and dormice. Time forestry operations to avoid the bird breeding season from March to July. Survey for nesting birds and potential bat roosts ahead of works. Any trees with known bat roosts must be retained. Trees with potential roost sites ie features such as woodpecker holes, loose bark, hollow trunks, cracks, splits, fissures and dense ivy cover should be retained where possible, using a risk-based approach[3]. Delay timber extraction until the drier months when there is less risk of damage to the woodland soils.	Ongoing

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7. Stakeholder Engagement

There can be a requirement on both the FC and the owner to undertake consultation/engagement. Please refer to Operations Note 35 for further information.

Work Proposal	Individual/ Organisation	Date Contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
All	Wonersh Parish Council				
All	Wonersh Woodland Group				
All	Arno Spaarkogel, Waverley Borough Council				

Add Box

[2] See https://www.gov.uk/guidance/manage-and-protect-woodland-wildlife

[3] See https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/888982/EPSW_A6_booklet_2020_web.pdf

8. Felling & Restocking

Should you wish to associate a felling licence with your management plan please complete the table below. Set out your felling intentions by identifying individual species where they comprise more than 20% of the volume to be felled. Individual species at or below 20% need to be grouped as MB (mixed broadleaf) and/or MC (mixed conifer).

Cpt(s)	Sub Cpt	Fell-ing Type	Species	Area of Felling (ha)	Est Volume M^3 (Bdlv/Con)	Pref Fell Year	Restock Species	Restock Area (ha)	% of Total Restock Area	Map No	TPO	Designation
1	*1a, 1b*	*CF*	*BE, MB, JL, MC*	*1.3*	*100/200*	*16/17*	*OK/BI/BE/WCH*	*1.3*	*100*	*1*	*No*	*No*
1	a	T	AH,SYC, MB	0.41	15	tbc						No
1	a	FC	SC	0.1	20	tbc	SC	0.1	100%	3	No	No
1	b	T	SC, HAZ	0.13	5	tbc						ASNW
1	c	T	SC, AH, MB	0.49	20	tbc						ASNW

9. Monitoring

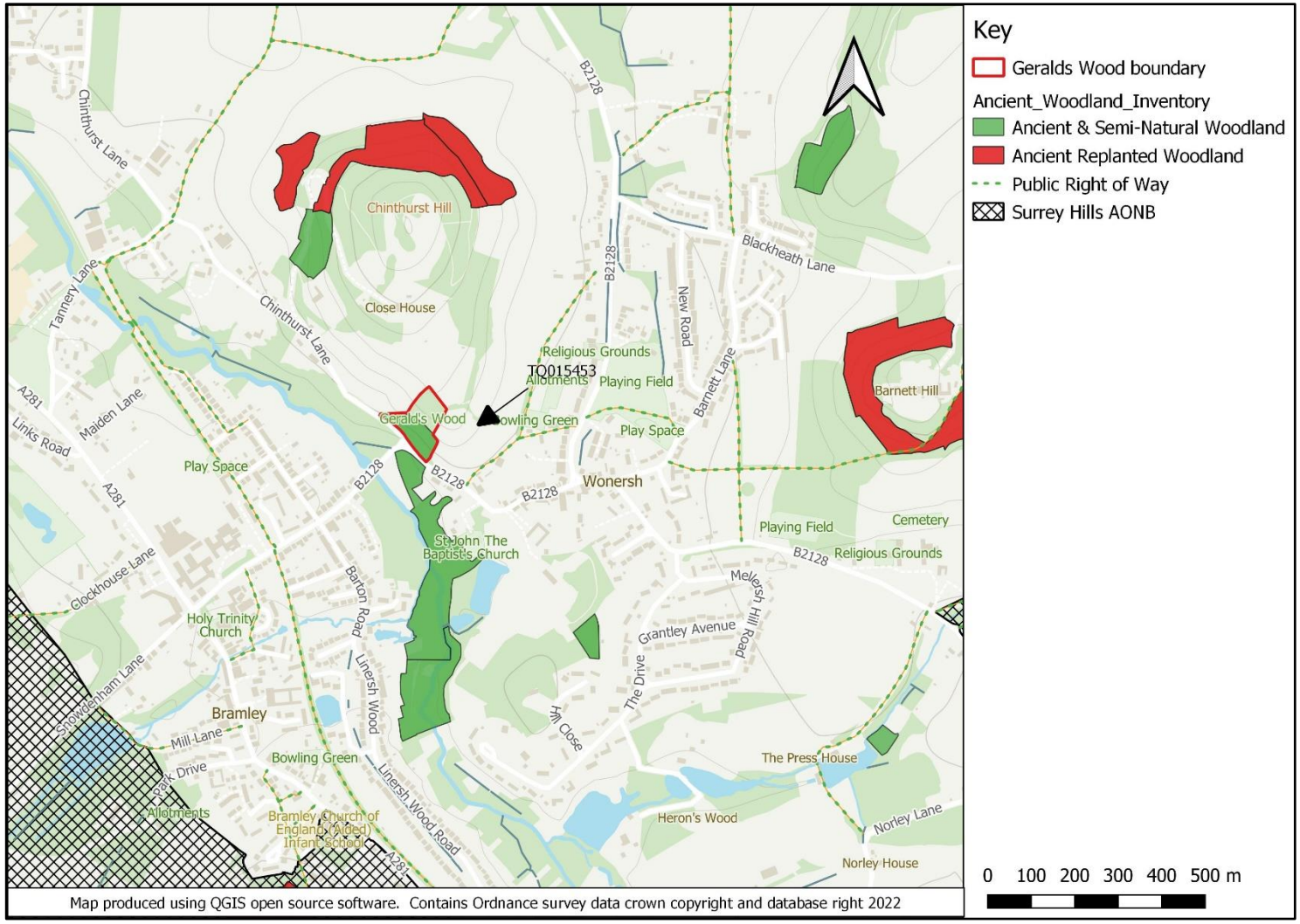
Indicators of success should be defined for each management objective and then checked at regular intervals. Use the below section to identify when and how monitoring is to be carried out. The data collected will help to evaluate progress.

Management Objective	Indicator of Success	Method of Assessment	Frequency of Assessment	Responsibility	Assessment Results
Safe public access	No preventable injuries from trees	Reports of incidents	Ongoing	Wonersh Parish Council	
Manage ash dieback	Disease-resistant trees retained. Unsafe trees felled.	Tree inspection	At least every 2 years	Wonersh Parish Council	
Control non-native invasive species	Cherry laurel confined to roadside hedge. Snowberry removed.	Visual survey	Annual	Wonersh Parish Council	
Increase habitat diversity	Year on year increase in wildlife diversity and abundance	Visual survey	Annual	Wonersh Parish Council	
Monitor deer impacts	Deer impacts limited to acceptable levels	Deer impact assessment/ deer exclosure	Annual	Wonersh Parish Council	
Monitor squirrel impacts	Squirrel impacts limited to acceptable levels	Squirrel impact assessment	Annual	Wonersh Parish Council	
Monitor for new tree pests and diseases	Any new pests and diseases are identified promptly and appropriate action taken	Visual survey	Annual	Wonersh Parish Council	

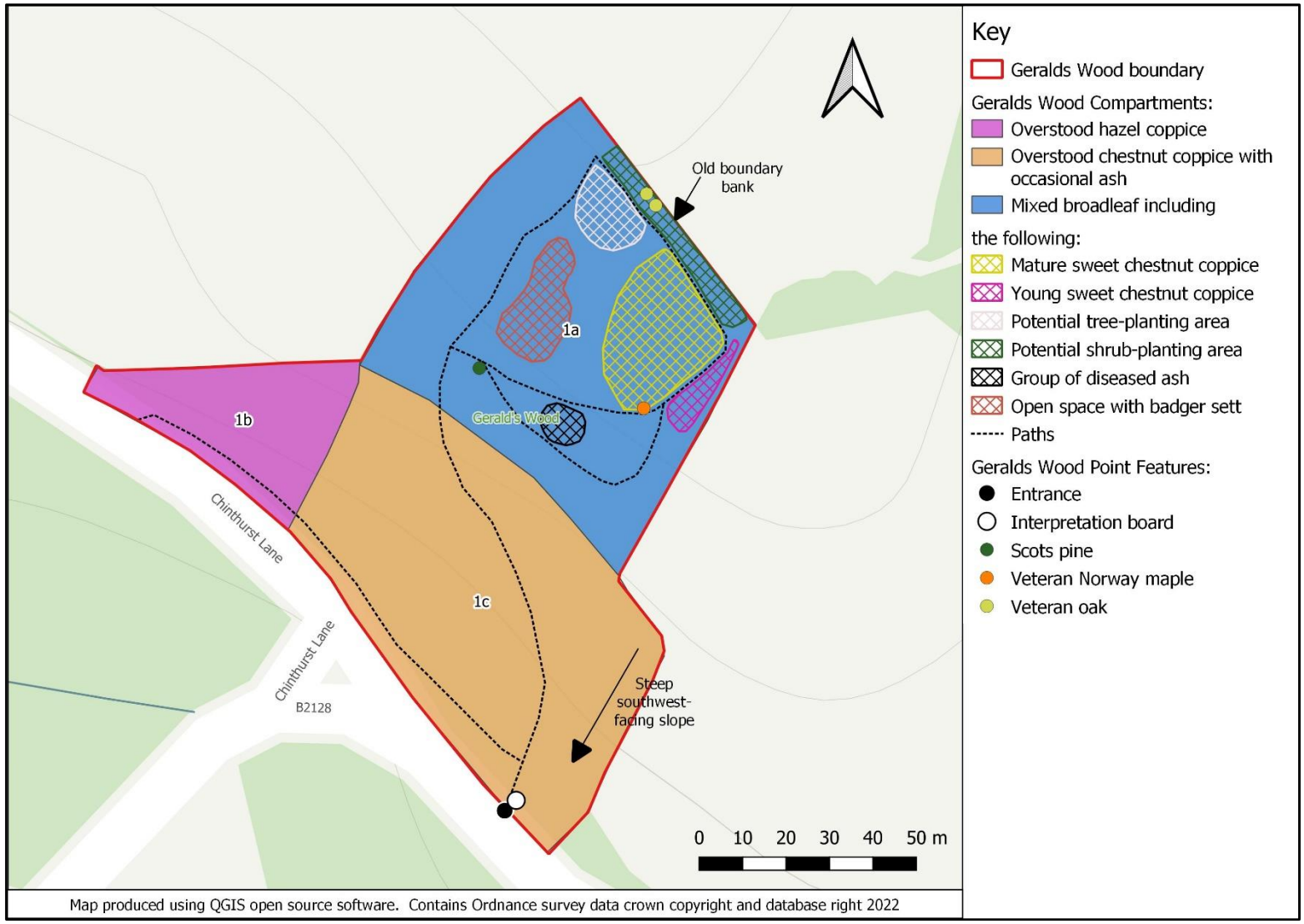
Add Box

Geralds Wood WMP Maps

Map 1: Location and Designations



Map 2: Woodland Types and Features



Map 3: Management Strategy